



Date: February 11, 2016

To: Councilmember Bruce Harrell, Chair
Public Safety, Civil Rights, and Technology Committee

From: Michael Mattmiller, Chief Technology Officer and Director

Subject: Department of Information Technology's 2015 Race and Social Justice Initiative Accomplishments

I look forward to sharing the Department of Information Technology (DoIT)'s Race and Social Justice (RSJI) 2015 Accomplishments with your committee next week.

DoIT remains committed to expanding our ongoing RSJI work. In addition to our internal change team, we participate in both the Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement Committee (IOPE) and the citywide RSJI Subcabinet. Over the past year, we have focused on both public facing initiatives and internal projects. Public facing projects include increasing awareness of the diversity programming on the Seattle Channel through public events and awarding technology matching funds to communities seeking help in bolstering their technology acumen. Internal initiatives include a commitment to diverse recruiting and employee development, along with emphasizing work with Women and Minority-owned businesses for project purchasing and consulting.

The attached table describes our accomplishments in 2015. Among these accomplishments, I would like to highlight that we have:

- Awarded \$470,000 in Technology Matching Fund grant funding to 22 nonprofit organizations who assist in the efforts of bridging the digital divide with Seattle's low-income population. This grant program earned the city a National Digital Inclusion Best Practices Award last year from the National League of Cities, Next Century Cities, and Google Fiber. The award specifically recognized the program as a leading best practice in fostering digital inclusion.
- Worked with Comcast to expand the free Cable Broadband program for up to 350 existing and new sites for the next 10 years. Last year this initiative provided cable broadband connections at 22 new sites.
- Partnered with Edmonds Community College and the University of Washington to host three youth of color interns with our security technology team to learn valued skills and receive course credits. Received two youth of color interns from the Summer Youth Employment Program.
- Aired more than 180 videos of events or lectures on RSJI content on the Seattle Channel, including Seattle Race Conferences, MLK Unity event and workshops, Community Stories, and various events and lectures.
- Assisted more than 3,000 low-income customers in obtaining discounted cable service, distributed 6,000 translated Cable Customer Bill of Rights pamphlets to immigrant and refugee communities, and provided 14 Cable Customer Bill of Rights information sessions over the course of the year, reaching 800 residents.

- DoIT contracted with 51 Woman and Minority-owned Business Employers (WMBEs) in 2015, greatly exceeding our purchasing and consulting spending goals.

We appreciate your support in this important area and look forward to working further with the department RSJI change team and the citywide change team on how we can collectively work for greater racial equity in our region.

Attachments

Cc DoIT Change Team
 SOCR – Diana Falchuk